

# HTML Forms

- HTML pages that allow users to enter data
- Form controls
  - Text windows
  - Drop down selection lists
  - Radio buttons
  - Check boxes
  - Buttons

# Forms syntax

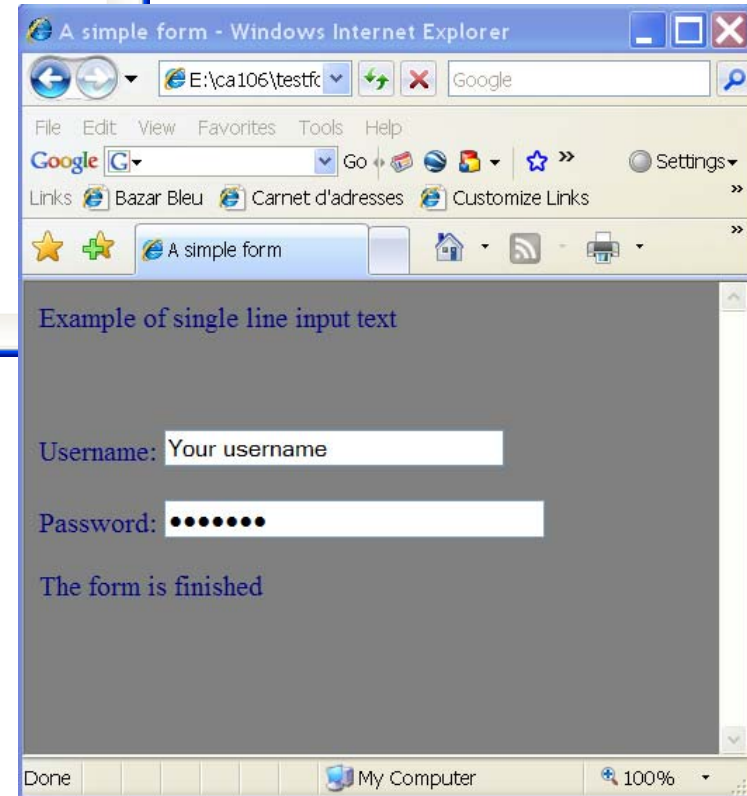
- Form inserted using `<form>...</form>` tag
- Other tags used between these tags to invoke specific controls
- Can have more than one form on a page

# Single Line Text

- To enable user to input a single line of text, use `<input>`
  - This tag used to specify other controls
  - `type` attribute indicates type of control required
  - Attributes used to give the control a name, default value and size(number of characters)
  - `type` of **text** used for ordinary text, and `type` of **password** used for text echoed as \*

# Single Line Text

```
testforms2 - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
<html>
<head>
<title>A simple form</title>
</head>
<body bgcolor=#808080 text=#000080>
Example of single line input text
<form>
<br><br> Username:
<input type="text" Name="details" size=30 value="Your username">
<br><br> Password:
<input type="Password" name="password" size=30 value="default">
</form>
The form is finished
</body>
</html>
```



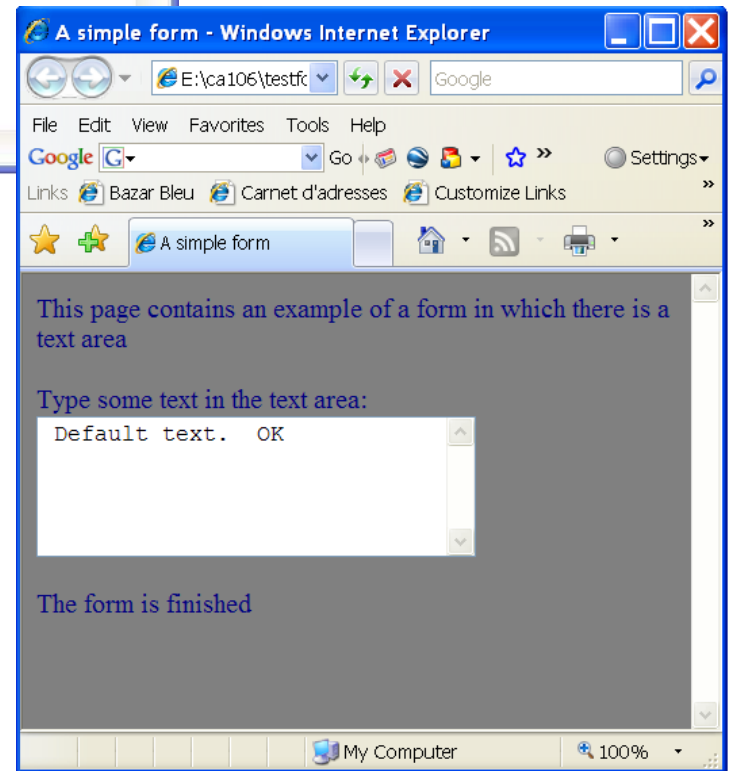
# Text Area

- Allows user to enter multiple lines of text
  - Scroll bar used to display large amounts of text
  - Tags `<textarea>... .</textarea>`
  - Insert default text between these tags
- Note: controls must be given a name

# Text Area example

```
testforms1 - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
<html>
<head>
<title>A simple form</title>
</head>
<body bgcolor=#808080 text=#000080>
This page contains an example of a form in which there is a text area
<form>
Type some text in the text area:
<textarea name="area" rows=5 cols=30> Default text.  OK </textarea>

</form>
The form is finished
</body>
</html>
```

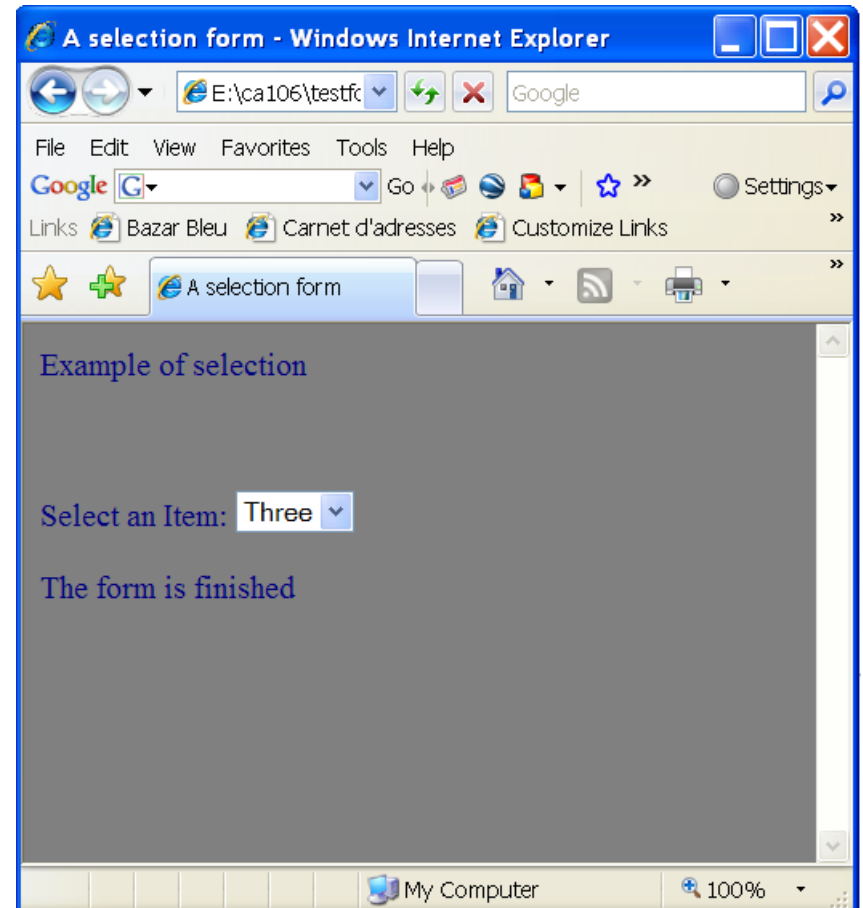


# Selections

- Allows user to select one or more option from a drop down menu
  - Use tag `<select>...</select>`
  - Attribute `multiple` allows user to select more than one option
  - `<option>` tag introduces each option
  - `value` attribute (for each option) gives value to option
  - Specify text to be displayed after tag
  - `selected` attribute indicates if an option is selected by default

# Selections

```
testforms3 - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
<title>A selection form</title>
</head>
<body bgcolor=#808080 text=navy>
Example of selection
<form>
<br><br> Select an Item:
<select name = "item">
<option value="1">One
<option value="2">Two
<option selected value="3">Three
<option value="4">Four
<option value="5">Five
<option value="6">Six
</select>
</form>
The form is finished
</body>
</html>
```



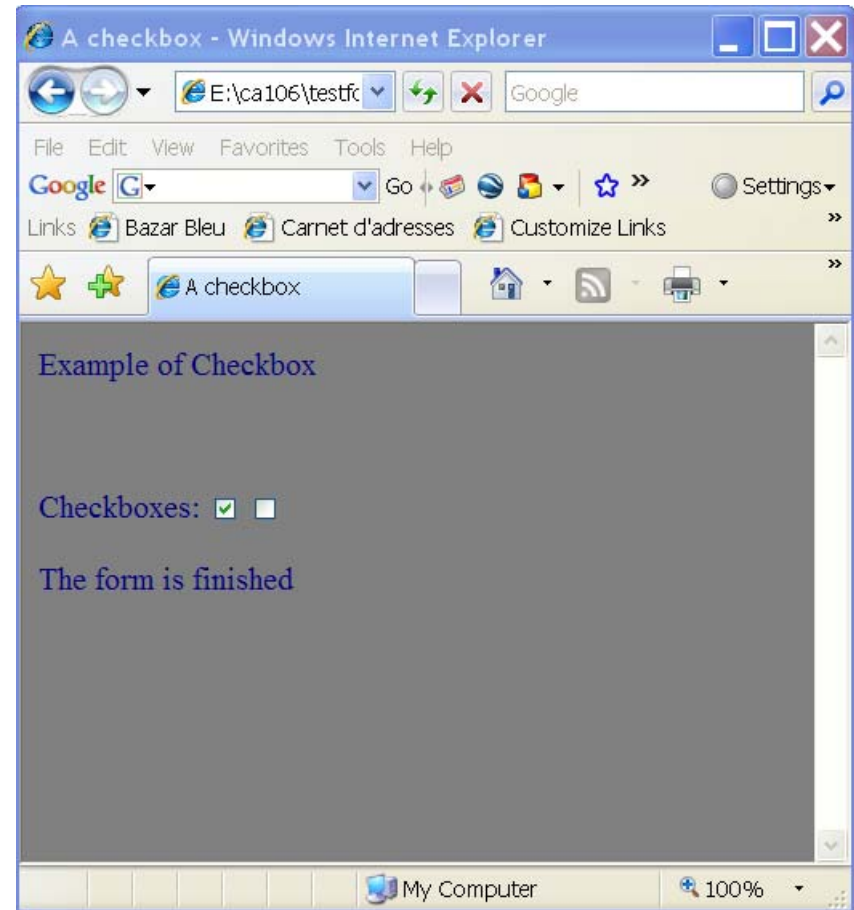
# Checkboxes

- Small boxes that can be either ticked or not ticked
  - Specified using `<input>` tag for each box, with input type of **checkbox**
  - Attributes used to name checkbox and to indicate if it is ticked (or not) by default

# Checkboxes

```
testforms4 - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
<html>
<head>
<title>A checkbox</title>
</head>
<body bgcolor=#808080 text=navy>
Example of Checkbox
<form>
<br><br>
Checkboxes:
<input type="checkbox" name="checked1" checked>
<input type="checkbox" name="checked2">
</form>
The form is finished
</body>
</html>
```

Note: first checkbox is checked by default.



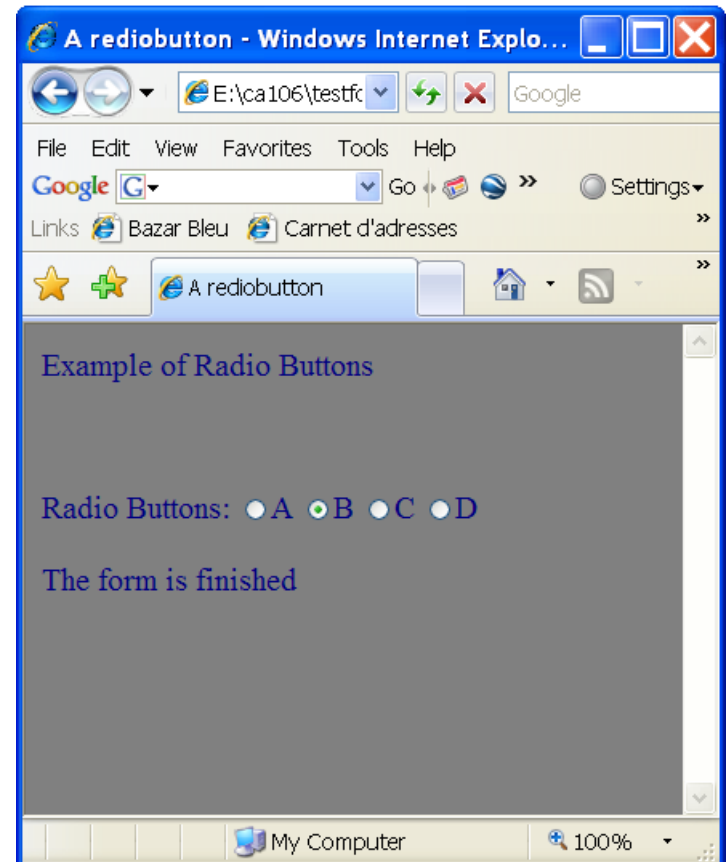
# Radio Buttons

- Group of radio buttons specified using `<input>` tag for each button, with input type of **radio**.
  - Buttons all given same name to indicate they form a group
  - `value` attribute gives value to button
  - Specify text to be displayed beside button after the tag
  - Attribute `checked` specifies default button

# Radio Buttons

```
testforms5 - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
<html>
<head>
<title>A radiobutton</title>
</head>
<body bgcolor=#808080 text=navy>
Example of Radio Buttons
<form>
<br><br>
Radio Buttons:
<input type="radio" name="choice" value="1">A
<input type="radio" name="choice" value="2" checked>B
<input type="radio" name="choice" value="3">C
<input type="radio" name="choice" value="4">D
</form>
The form is finished
</body>
</html>
```

Note: Button B  
is selected by  
default

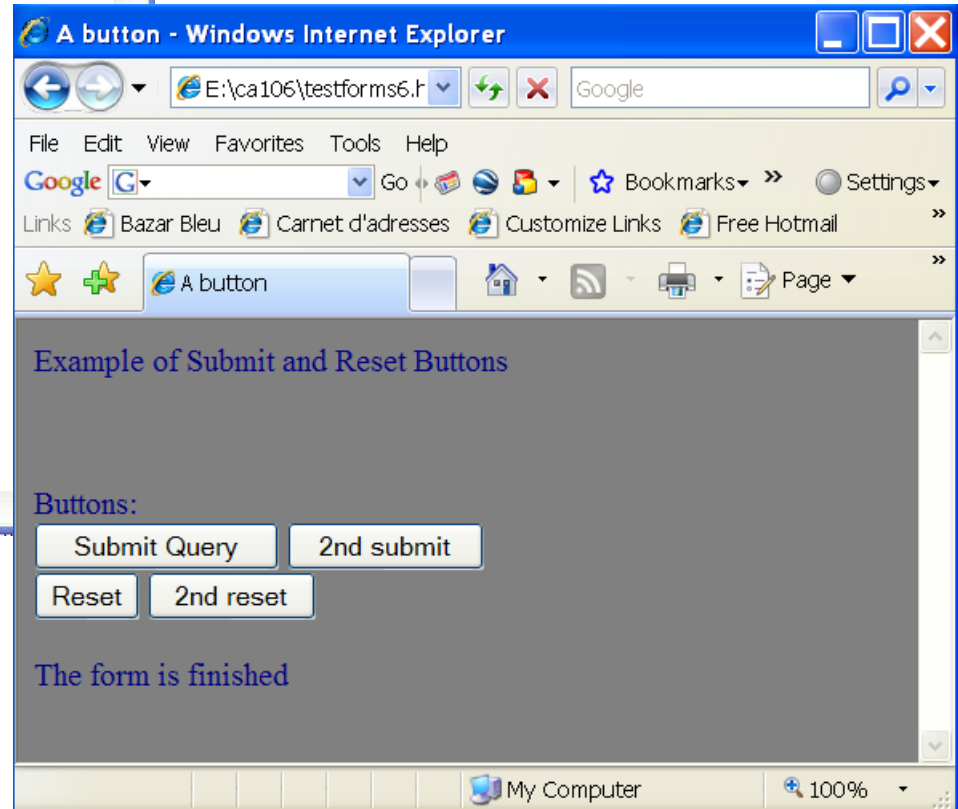


# Buttons

- Two types of buttons – **submit** and **reset**
- **Submit** button submits whatever the user enters
- **Reset** button resets controls to default values
  - Buttons specified using `<input>` tag
  - Displayed with text “Submit Query” and “Reset” by default
  - Use `value` attribute to specify text displayed
  - No need to give buttons names

# Submit and Reset Buttons

```
testforms6 - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
<html>
<head>
<title>A button</title>
</head>
<body bgcolor=#808080 text=navy>
Example of Submit and Reset Buttons
<form>
<br><br>
Buttons:
<br>
<input type="submit" >
<input type="submit" value="2nd submit">
<br>
<input type="reset">
<input type="reset" value="2nd reset">
</form>
The form is finished
</body>
</html>
```

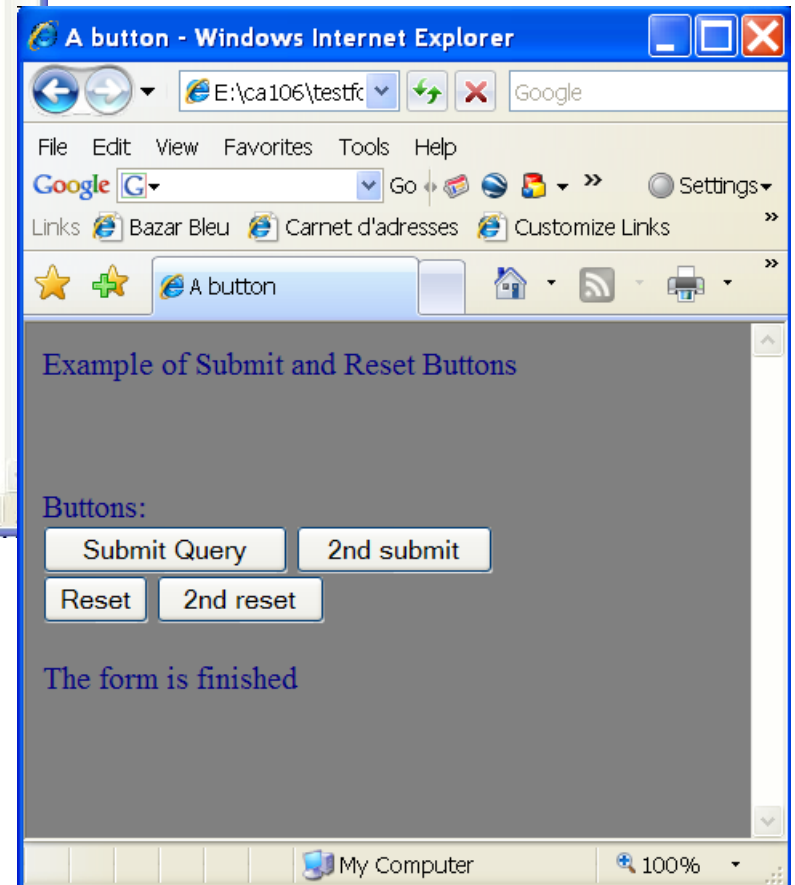


# Hidden Input

- Controls that are hidden
  - Name and value cannot be changed by the user
  - Do not appear on display
  - Specified using `<input>` tag
  - Used by ‘owner’ of site who is gathering the input

# Hidden Input

```
testforms7 - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
<html>
<head>
<title>A button</title>
</head>
<body bgcolor=#808080 text=navy>
Example of Submit and Reset Buttons
<form>
<br><br>
Buttons:
<br>
<input type="submit" >
<input type="submit" value="2nd submit">
<br>
<input type="reset">
<input type="reset" value="2nd reset">
<input type="hidden" name="secret" value="hidden value">
</form>
The form is finished
</body>
</html>
```



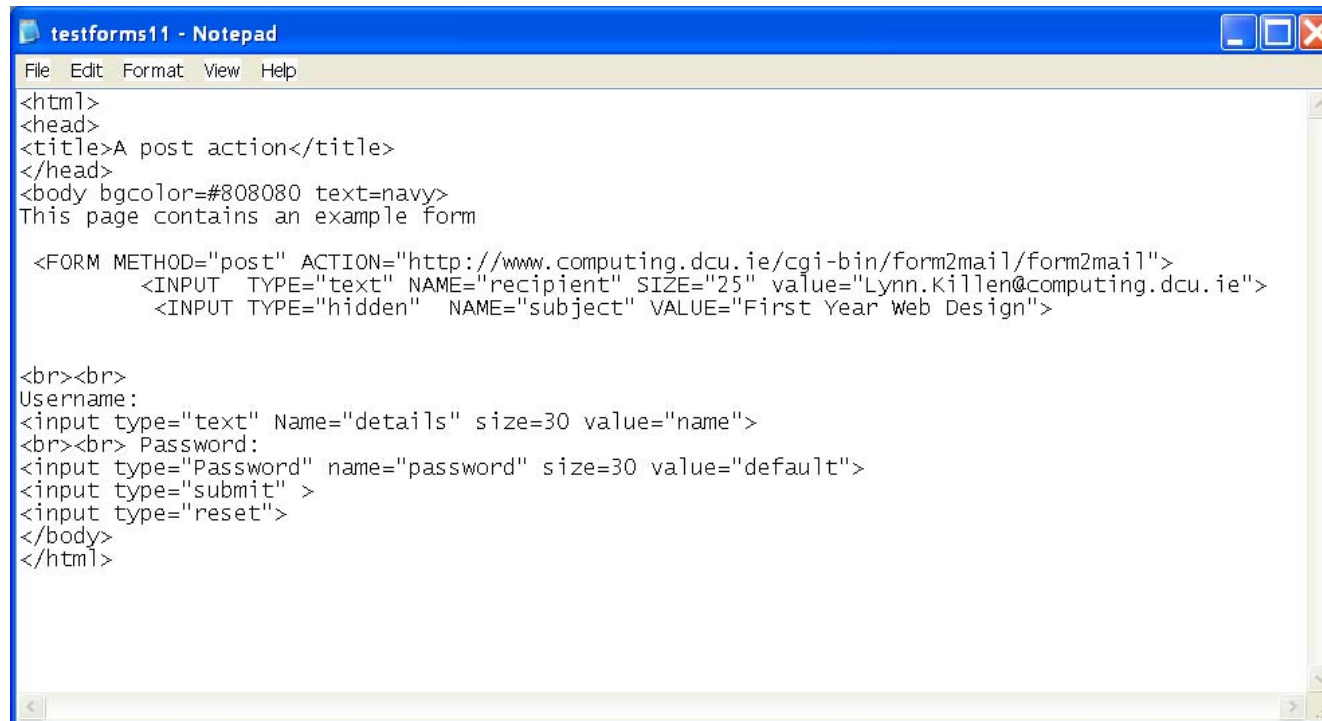
# Actions

- Forms are created to gather information. What happens to the data entered by the user?
- Data submitted to a server when submit button pressed.
- Server address (URL) required to enable this to happen

# Sending Data to a Server

- Two methods:
  - **Get** method – data appended to the end of the URL and sent to the server
  - **Post** method – data sent separately from URL
  - With both methods, browser sends pairs consisting of the name of the control and its value

# Example of use of Post method

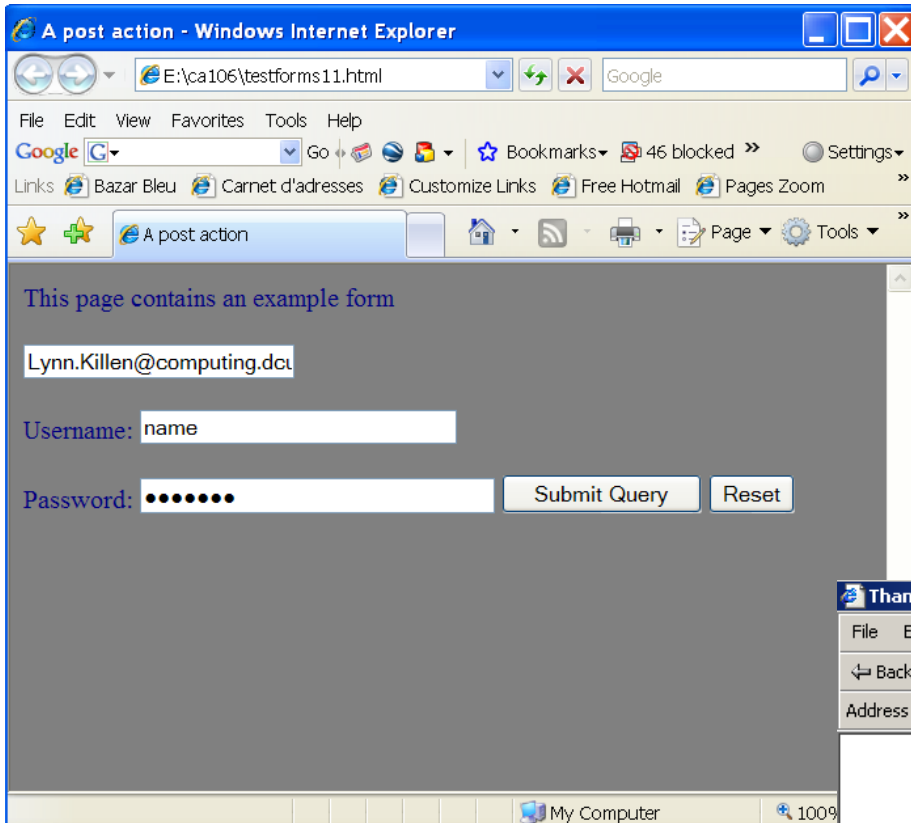


```
testforms11 - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
<html>
<head>
<title>A post action</title>
</head>
<body bgcolor=#808080 text=navy>
This page contains an example form

  <FORM METHOD="post" ACTION="http://www.computing.dcu.ie/cgi-bin/form2mail/Form2mail">
    <INPUT TYPE="text" NAME="recipient" SIZE="25" value="Lynn.Killen@computing.dcu.ie">
    <INPUT TYPE="hidden" NAME="subject" VALUE="First Year Web Design">

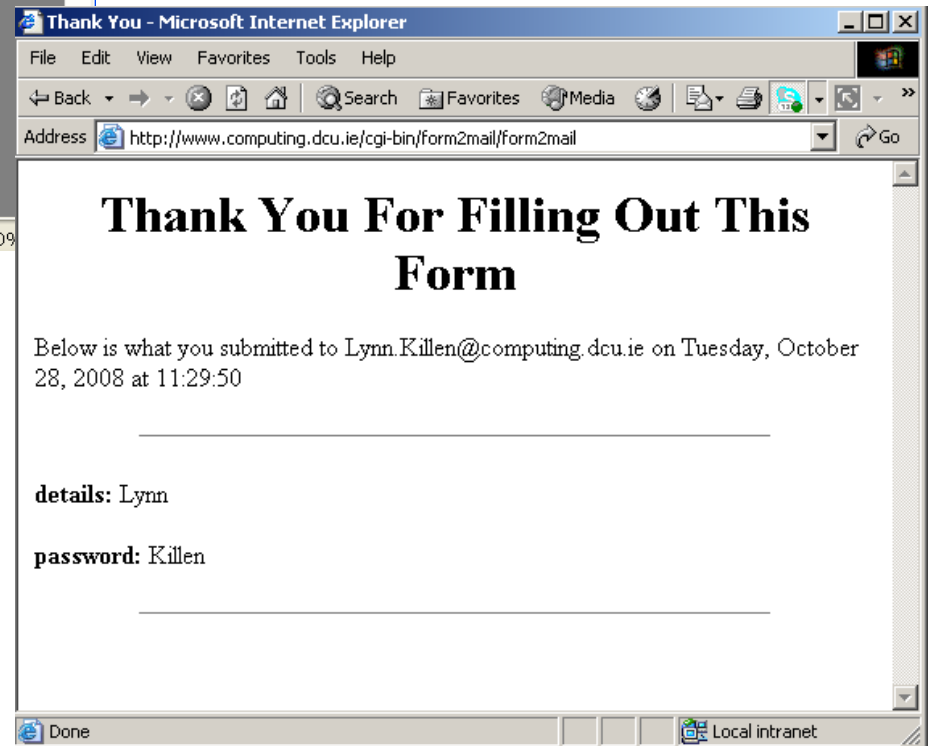
<br><br>
Username:
<input type="text" Name="details" size=30 value="name">
<br><br> Password:
<input type="Password" name="password" size=30 value="default">
<input type="submit" >
<input type="reset" >
</body>
</html>
```

Note use of “hidden” input (Subject of E-mail)  
Insert **your own (computing)** E-mail address. E-mail containing data will be sent to you at this address.



After inputting  
'Lynn' and 'Killen'  
and clicking  
'Submit Query' I  
get this screen

I then  
receive an  
e-mail with  
subject  
header  
'First Year  
Web  
Design'



# Sending Data to this Server – **IMPORTANT**

- To use the server at  
<http://www.computing.dcu.ie/cgi-bin/form2mail/form2mail>
- You **MUST**
  - Be using a lab computer in the Computing building
  - Use your e-mail address at [computing.dcu.ie](mailto:computing.dcu.ie) and no other e-mail address
- In the example, even if you change the e-mail address on the form before submitting, the e-mail is sent from your address – you cannot make it appear as if someone else has submitted!
- These rules are necessary for security reasons